

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of providing a portable information agent comprising:
presenting a graphical representation associated with said portable information agent in a
composition accessed by an initial application, said portable information agent having
state and having one or more possible external connections;
allowing relocation of said graphical object to a location outside of said initial application;
and
thereafter moving said portable information agent to said outside location, preserving state
of said portable information agent.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said portable information agent, once
relocated, will persist and maintain state after termination of said initial application.
3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said initial application is a web browser and
said composition is a web page.
4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said initial application is an email client and
said composition is an email message.
5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said initial application is a desktop provided
by an operating system.
6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said relocation may be repeated from a
current location to any number of additional platforms.
7. The method according to claim 5 wherein said desktop provided by an operating
system is an interface of a platform, said platform selected from the group consisting of: a
windows PC, a Macintosh PC, a unix-type operating system, a set-top box, a wireless logic
appliance, internet appliance, a personal digital assistant, or any other device connected to a
network.
8. The method according to claim 1 wherein said new location is selected from the group
consisting of: a desktop providing by an operating system; a different application; a different
computer platform with a different operating system.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein said portable information agent includes one or more user interface components and wherein said components are preserved after a relocation.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein said portable information agent includes one or more connections to one or more external entities and wherein said connections are preserved after a relocation.

11. The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing a user to select and drag said graphical object.

12. The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing a user to discontinuous select said graphical object and place said object in a new location.

13. The method according to claim 1 wherein said allowing relocation comprises allowing a graphical object to move to a new location without an action by a user.

14. The method according to claim 10 wherein said one or more external entities are selected from the group consisting of: web servers, other applications, background processes, and other remote processes.

15. A method of interacting with a portable information agent:
providing a portable information agent object in a composition accessed by an initial application;
allowing a user to select said portable information agent object and relocate said object outside of said initial application;
upon detecting said relocating, determining if sufficient infrastructure logic exists to allow said object to operate in a new location;
if said determining indicates that sufficient infrastructure does not exist, contacting an agent server to request necessary infrastructure logic;
downloading and installing necessary infrastructure logic; and
thereafter moving said graphic object to said new location.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein said initial application is a web browser and said composition is a web page.

17. The method according to claim 15 wherein said new location is selected from the group consisting of: a desktop providing by an operating system; a different application: a different computer platform with a different operating system.

18. The method according to claim 15 wherein said portable information agent is associated with a graphic object constructed from presentation primitives that allow user interaction with said object.

19. The method according to claim 15 wherein said graphic agent object includes logic allowing communication with a data server for tracking user interaction.

20. The method according to claim 19 wherein said graphic agent object and said infrastructure allow communication with a data server for tracking user interaction after said object is moved to a new location desktop.